

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 00440 132128Z

61

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 121208Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 440

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE STUDENT DEPORTATION CASE IN LOS ANGELES

PERSONAL EYES ONLY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

REFS:A) STATE 282843; B) SAIGON 15639; C)SAIGON 15724

1. SAIGON POST THIS MORNING CARRIED WASHINGTON DATELINE UPI STORY RECOUNTING REPRESENTATIVE LES ASPIN'S COMMENTS OF SATURDAY QUOTING A DEPARTMENT OF STATE LETTER WHICH SAID "WE PLAN TO REVIEW THOROUGHLY THIS NEW EVIDENCE AS WELL AS THE MATERIALS ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED BY THE STUDENTS AND EVALUATE OUR POSITION IN THE LIGHT OF ALL THE INFORMATION WHICH HAS NOW BEEN PRESENTED." IN REF A YOU SAID THAT "WE WILL PROVIDE YOU IN ADVANCE WITH DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIS CASE FOR YOUR COMMENT". IT ALSO SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS POUCHING A COPY OF A TABLE OF CONTENTS OF THE 92 EXHIBITS. THIS HAS ARRIVED AND LIKE ANY OTHER TABLE OF CONTENTS REALLY GIVES US NO OPPORTUNITY TO DISSECT, ANALYZE AND COMMENT ON THE RELEVANCE OF THE ITEMS LISTED.

2. I STILL THINK THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE CONTRIBUTION THAT SHOULD BE MADE FROM THIS EMBASSY BEFORE ANY OPTION PAPER IS PRESENTED TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY. I STILL THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL DESPITE THE "MAJOR EFFORT" THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO GIVE US MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ON WHICH WE MIGHT FURNISH
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS AND INFORMATION. IT HAS NOW BEEN SIX

WEEKS SINCE, ACCORDING TO MY UNDERSTANDING AT HONOLULU, YOU AGREED THAT YOU WOULD HAVE EA/VN SEND TO US SUCH DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE AND RESUMES OF TESTIMONY THAT WE MIGHT STUDY. THEREFORE, WITH THE UTMOST RESPECT AND POLITNESS I DO HOPE YOU WILL PERMIT ME TO RECORD THAT WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR DOES NOT BEAR OUT YOUR STATEMENT THAT YOU DID INDEED FEEL OUR VIEWS AND COUNSEL MIGHT BE USEFUL TO THE SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT IN ARRIVING AT A DETERMINATION ON HOW TO PROCEED ON THIS MATTER.

3. IN THE MEANTIME, AS UPI RELEASE INDICATES, EVERYTHING IS BEING PREPARED FOR MAJOR PROPAGANDA USE OF THIS PARTICULAR CASE WHICH I HAVE FELT AND STILL FEEL WE WERE IN A POSITION TO COUNTER BY SIMPLE, CALM PRESENTATION OF THE FACTS AS OPPOSED TO THE DISTORTIONS PRESENTED AT THE HEARINGS. AT THE MOMENT ALL THE INFORMATION WE HAVE IS CONTAINED IN REF A. I DO BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL AGREE THAT THIS IS NOT PRECISELY THE EXTENT OF THE COMMITMENT THAT YOU MADE TO ME IN HONOLULU. MARTIN

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